

Death of Dr. R. E. Wright

Dr. Robert Errol Wright of the Division of Plant Industry died on 4th November, 1960, at the age of thirty-three years.

Dr. Wright joined C.S.I.R.O. in February, 1960, to initiate work on the genetics of *Rhizobium*. His appointment formed part of the recent expansion of the Division's research programme into *Rhizobium*-legume relationships which was aided by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation.

The general objective of his work was to increase the host range and efficiency of nitrogen fixation in the *Rhizobium*-plant symbiosis through mutation and recombination of the bacteria.

Dr. Wright commenced his undergraduate studies at the University of Adelaide in 1943, and after service with the Royal Australian Navy from 1944 to 1946 he completed his B.Sc. in 1949.

He worked as a research biochemist with the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works until 1952 when he went to the University of Wisconsin for post-graduate studies.

He completed his M.S. in biochemistry in 1954 and his Ph.D. in microbial genetics in 1957. During this period he unfortunately received severe head injuries in an automobile accident.

While studying for his Ph.D. he worked under Professor J. Lederberg, Nobel Prize winner in 1958.

After leaving Wisconsin he continued his work on respiratory deficiency in yeast, first with Professor Ephrussi in Paris, and then at the Bacteri-

ology Department of the University of Melbourne. From there he joined C.S.I.R.O.

In the short time he was with the Division of Plant Industry, Bob Wright fully demonstrated his capacity as a scientist, and his sincerity as a friend. His untimely death is a loss not only to research and knowledge but also to his many friends and colleagues.

He leaves a widow and two young children.

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